

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1245

Introduced by Assembly Member Laird

February 21, 2003

An act to add Section 9001.5 to the Elections Code, relating to initiatives.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1245, as amended, Laird. Initiatives: Web site posting.

Under existing law, a petition for an initiative or referendum measure may not be circulated for signature until a draft of the measure is submitted to the Attorney General for preparation of a title and summary.

This bill would require that, before an initiative measure is submitted to the Attorney General, its proponents must provide the Secretary of State with a draft and brief description of the measure. This bill would require that the Secretary of State post the draft measure on the Secretary of State's Web site for a period of 30 days, during which the public would be permitted to post comments concerning the measure. The comments would remain on the Secretary of State's Web site for 60 days following the initial 30-day posting of the draft measure.

This bill would permit the proponents of the measure, *following the 30-day posting*, to submit *the measure as the drafted to the Attorney General*, to submit a revised draft of the measure to the Attorney General without any subsequent public review, or to submit a revised draft to the Secretary of State for an additional 30-day posting.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 9001.5 is added to the Elections Code,
2 to read:
3 9001.5. (a) Before a proposed initiative measure may be
4 submitted to the Attorney General in accordance with Section
5 9002, the proponents of the measure shall provide the Secretary of
6 State with a draft of the measure and a brief description of the
7 measure. The Secretary of State shall post the draft and the
8 description on *the* Secretary of State's Internet Web site for 30 days
9 to facilitate public comment on the measure. The posting shall
10 include the names of the proponents of the measure.
11 (b) Any person may comment on the draft of the proposed
12 measure through the Secretary of State's Internet Web site. All
13 comments shall be public and shall remain on the Web site for at
14 least 60 days after the close of the initial 30-day posting of the
15 measure.
16 (c) After the draft of a measure has been posted for 30 days, the
17 proponents of the measure may (1) *submit the unrevised draft to*
18 *the Attorney General or* (2) revise the draft and submit it to the
19 Attorney General without any subsequent public review under this
20 section. The Secretary of State, however, shall post a revised draft
21 of the measure on the Secretary of State's Internet Web site for
22 another 30 days upon receipt of a written request by the
23 proponents.
24 (d) This section does not apply to referendum measures.

